

104TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4096

To encourage and expedite the granting of membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 17, 1996

Mr. HOKE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

A BILL

To encourage and expedite the granting of membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “NATO Enlargement
5 Act of 1996”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) Since 1949, the North Atlantic Treaty Or-
9 ganization (NATO) has played an essential role in

1 guaranteeing the security, freedom, and prosperity
2 of the United States and its partners in the Alliance.

3 (2) The NATO Alliance is, and has been since
4 its inception, purely defensive in character, and it
5 poses no threat to any nation. The enlargement of
6 the NATO Alliance to include as full and equal
7 members emerging democracies in Central and East-
8 ern Europe will not threaten any nation. America's
9 security, freedom, and prosperity remain linked to
10 the security of the countries of Europe.

11 (3) The sustained commitment of the member
12 countries of NATO to a mutual defense has made
13 possible the democratic transformation of Eastern
14 Europe. Members of the Alliance can and should
15 play a critical role in addressing the security chal-
16 lenges of the post-Cold War era and in creating the
17 stable environment needed for those emerging de-
18 mocracies in Central and Eastern Europe to success-
19 fully complete political and economic transformation.

20 (4) NATO has enlarged its membership on 3
21 different occasions since 1949.

22 (5) Congress has sought to facilitate the further
23 enlargement of NATO at an early date by enacting
24 the NATO Participation Act of 1994 (title II of
25 Public Law 103-447; 22 U.S.C. 1928 note) and the

1 NATO Participation Act Amendments of 1995 (sec-
2 tion 585 of Public Law 104–107).

3 (6) As new members of NATO assume the re-
4 sponsibilities of Alliance membership, the costs of
5 maintaining stability in Europe will be shared more
6 widely. Facilitation of the enlargement process will
7 require current members of NATO, and the United
8 States in particular, to demonstrate the political will
9 needed to build on successful ongoing programs such
10 as the Warsaw Initiative and the Partnership for
11 Peace by making available the resources necessary to
12 supplement efforts prospective new members are
13 themselves undertaking.

14 (7) The United States continues to regard the
15 political independence and territorial integrity of all
16 emerging democracies in Central and Eastern Eu-
17 rope as vital to European peace and security.

18 (8) Full NATO membership is granted to coun-
19 tries in Central and Eastern Europe that meet gen-
20 eral qualifications and that have established a free
21 market economy and a western-style democracy.

22 (9) As Congress seeks to facilitate the further
23 enlargement of NATO, the following new democ-
24 racies are requesting membership in the NATO Alli-

1 ance: Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Roma-
2 nia, Slovakia, and Slovenia.

3 (10) Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Ro-
4 mania, Slovakia, and Slovenia are all successful par-
5 ticipants in the Partnership for Peace program.

6 (11) Under section 203 of the NATO Participa-
7 tion Act of 1994, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia,
8 along with Poland, the Czech Republic, and Hun-
9 gary, qualify to receive assistance in making the
10 transition to full NATO membership.

11 (12) In some particular instances, due to spe-
12 cific conditions, certain NATO members, such as
13 Spain and France, have chosen and have been
14 granted a special status of political membership in
15 NATO.

16 **SEC. 3. DECLARATION OF POLICY REGARDING FURTHER**
17 **ENLARGEMENT OF NATO TO INCLUDE ROMA-**
18 **NIA, SLOVAKIA, AND SLOVENIA.**

19 In order to expedite the process of NATO enlarge-
20 ment, grant membership in NATO to all qualifying coun-
21 tries, and strengthen the stability in Central and Eastern
22 Europe, the Congress declares the following:

23 (1) The President, at the earliest possible date,
24 should encourage other member countries of NATO
25 to start negotiations for the accession to NATO,

1 along with Poland, the Czech Republic, and Hun-
2 gary, of Slovakia, Romania, and Slovenia.

3 (2) The pace of the negotiations for accession
4 to NATO by each country described in paragraph
5 (1) should depend on a periodic evaluation of the
6 performance of each such country and, as a result,
7 the date of accession to NATO for each such coun-
8 try may vary.

9 (3) The special status of “political member-
10 ship” in NATO, similar to that enjoyed by Spain
11 and France, should be provided for any new member
12 country of NATO if considered to be appropriate by
13 the other member countries of NATO.

○